

Hi my name is _____ and this is the 8th principle minute. With the adoption of the 8th Principle, our congregation committed to dismantle racism, beginning within our walls.

I learned about the UU connection to Kwanzaa at the Dr. Mtangulizi Sanyika lecture this week. Dr. Sanyika was a UU leader during the black empowerment period of the 60s. At that time, American race relations was undergoing a paradigm shift from the civil rights movement to the black power movement.

At the 1968 GA the black UU caucus petitioned for support to fight white institutional racism. In response, the Black Affairs Council was funded by the UUA. The mission of the Black Affairs Council was to reshape the relationship between blacks and whites in America, supporting the black power movement of empowerment and self determination through 1) advocacy and community organizing, 2) institution building and 3) deconstruction of the white supremacy narrative.

The Black UU Caucus supported many community based organizations. One was led by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa's founder. The UU Black Affairs Council helped fund the development and publicity of Kwanzaa. The 7 principles of Kwanzaa supported the ideals of black empowerment and self determination. Black UUs were among the first supporters and practitioners of Kwanzaa.

Dr Sanyika concluded that Kwanzaa can be viewed as a vaccination which helps to combat white supremacy and institutional racism.

There is more to this story of the black empowerment era of uu history. But we can save that for another day.

Together we will continue this journey toward spiritual wholeness, build a beloved community, educate ourselves and discuss what it means to develop a culture of being accountably anti-racist. We will continue to look at our own practices, identity, and stories with a new lens to dismantle the racism in ourselves and our institutions.